INR4054_SumD_Marien_DW_59 (56709)

University of Central Florida

INR4054 Global Politics of Energy

Summer D 2013

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Course Information

Office	UCF COCOA: Building 3, rm. 223
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You must regularly visit your UCF knights email account. The instructor relies on it to update you on the course process.

Email Address:	danielmarien@yahoo.com Avoid course email for quicker responses.

Course Contents

Energy has made an immense contribution to the development of civilization and the development of human powers and faculties. Yet, it has also soiled the land, air and water on which humans rely for a healthy and fulfilling life. Energy and human well-being will intersect even more powerfully in the 21st century than before.

This course examines the main characteristics of the global energy system and the momentous pressures and choices faced by governments, citizens, business, and consumers across the globe.

The long-term political challenge to the global energy system can be summarized thus: a fast growing human population needs more energy to maintain satisfactory standards of living in the rich countries and to conquer crushing want and underdevelopment in the poor countries. But humankind can hardly afford more of the various kinds of environmental contaminations and risks associated with fossil fuels. Air and water pollution as well as man-made climate change demand a gradual reduction in emissions of greenhouses gases and other noxious substances (sulfur dioxide, organic volatile compounds, mercury, etc.) linked to the production and combustion of oil, gas and coal.

The global energy system thus seems poised at a crossroads between further expanding traditional energy sources at the expense of environmental integrity and human health and well-being and a technologically, economically and politically difficult transition towards environmentally friendly energies.

Other issues further compound this core challenge: (1) inter-state competition for access to affordable and reliable sources of energy; (2) the counter-intuitive but all too real economic and political handicaps afflicting energy-rich states (the “oil curse”), and: (3) the widely feared, but uncertain, depletion of cheap and easily accessible sources of oil (“Peak Oil Theory”).

Tempting solutions to this last problem argue for large scale development of new methods for extracting traditional fuels in the form of tar sand oil, hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) of oil and natural gas, drilling under deep sea beds and in inhospitable Arctic regions, and “retreat mining” of coal. However, these new frontiers of fossil fuel production seem to sharpen the core tension between the need for more energy and the need for lesser environmental impacts.

Course Goals and Objectives

- ### Course Goals

1. Understand the arguments for and against the idea according to which the United States could and should play a leading role in greening the global energy system.
2. Understanding the arguments for and against developing new methods for extracting fossil fuels.
3. Understanding the “oil curse” afflicting many energy exporting nations.
4. Understanding the challenge to economic development created by energy poverty in much of the Third World.
5. Develop students’ ability to work productively in small groups, thereby developing valuable skills for professional and administrative work roles.

- ### Course Objectives

During this course, the students will learn:

1. To state the pros and cons of the United States taking a leading role in the transition to green energy.
2. To describe the pros and cons of developing the infrastructure for extracting gas by fracking, tar sand oil (including the Keystone Pipeline), deep seas and Arctic drilling and retreat mining of coal.

3. To describe how to what extent, and under what conditions rich natural endowments in oil can negatively impact a nation's political life and economic development.
4. To describe the challenges and opportunities for bringing more energy to the Third World.
5. To divide group tasks in clear and functional ways, to communicate ideas effectively, to pay close attention to other students' ideas and viewpoints, to demonstrate responsible behavior toward the group, to meet deadlines, and to integrate one's ideas in a larger ensemble.

Course Materials

You will need to have access to the following:

Netflix Membership

The first trial month is advertized as free. You will need access to this service only during the first 4 weeks of the course. Afterwards, the documentaries assigned for viewing are legally available for free on the web.

Thomas Friedman
Hot, Flat and Crowded Release 2.0: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, **Expanded and updated edition only**, 2009, ISBN: 978-0312428921.

> **(Avoid the first, 2008, edition. You have the wrong book if the title page does NOT say "Release 2.0 Updated and Expanded.")**

Bruce Podobnik
Global Energy Shifts: Fostering Sustainability in a Turbulent Age
Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006, ISBN: 9781592132942.

These books are available at the UCF Bookstore (both Orlando and Cocoa).

Other required materials will be found in electronic form at the UCF Library.

Assessments

WHAT	WHEN	WORTH
Weekly Quizzes	Weeks #1-8 All Individuals by Wednesday 11:59 P.M.	40%
Weekly Posting of Answers to Discussion by All Group Members	Weeks #1-8 All Individuals by Wednesday, 11:59 P.M.	40%
Weekly Posting of Summary by Group Note Takers (All individuals must do this twice during the semester)	Weeks #1-8 Selected Individuals by Friday, 11:59 P.M.	Penalty (-2 points) for non-performance
Final Exam	All Individuals July 11 – 12	20%

Course Schedule

Week #1, May 13-17: Is the Global Oil Patch Drying Up?

- **On Monday, students read the Course Outline to familiarize themselves with the course's goals, content and structure.**
- The instructor will assign you to a discussion group at random. Four members per group. Groups are identified by numbers.

- You will post your individual answers to the discussion questions in the Individual Answers Group Discussion Box in Canvas appropriate to your group by Wednesday, 11:59 P.M. This process is repeated until Week #8.
- The group note taker of the week (a rotating position) will compose a summary of the group's answers and post it by Friday, 11:59 P.M. in the Group SUMMARIES Discussion Box. This process is repeated until Week# 8.

- **View** the documentary film *A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash* (90 minutes)
    - Available for online streaming at Netflix.
- **Read** Daniel Yergin, *The Quest*, chapter 11: Is the World Running out of Oil? (Available electronically from the UCF library).

- **Read** Friedman, *Hot, Flat and Crowded, Release 2.0 Updated and Expanded*, Preface and chapters 1-3.

- **Take the Quiz** (before Wednesday evening at 11:59 P.M.) covering the materials assigned for the week.

- **Participate** in your Group's Discussion Board (before Wednesday evenings at 11:59 P.M.) by answering the instructor's questions for this week. The instructor announces in due time the questions in the Announcement function of Canvas and via email (from a list drawn from myucf). It is your responsibility to ensure that your UCF email account is working and regularly consulted.

- **The Group Note Taker** (a rotating position) synthesize the group's answers and posts his/her text **in the relevant SUMMARIES Discussion Board** by Friday evenings under this title:
    - Group Number_Summary: **EX.: "Group_1_Summary."**
    - The Note Taker may use copy and paste functions for this task. Do not re-invent the wheel in composing this synthesis. Start by reading all answers, then choose and assemble your group mates' paragraphs that articulate the most complete and accurate answers to the Reading Comprehension Questions. For the Evaluation Questions, the secretary's summary reproduces all the substantive viewpoints and attributes opinions to specific individuals.
    - **Do this carefully: groups are randomly graded on these summaries.**

Week #2, May 20-24: Fossil Fuels and Traditional Forms of Pollution

- **View these documentary films** (total running time: 93 minutes):

    - Corruption of Officials in Bangladesh by a Canadian Natural Gas Company (10 minutes). Available at: http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/bribe/2009/08/bangladesh-a-dirty-deal-back-fires.html

    - Little known and little compensated 2007 Oil Spill in the Philippines (12 minutes): http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2007/08/philippines_par.html

    - Russia' Sakhalin Island Oil Protest from Indigenous Peoples (16 min). http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2007/05/russia_island_o.html

- 2010 Gulf Oil Spill (55 minutes) http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/the-spill/

- **Read** Terry Tamminen, *Lives per Gallon*, chapters 1 and 2. (Available at the library reserve.)
- **Read:** Jeff Goodell, *Big Coal*, chapter 6. (Available at the library reserve.)

Week #3, May 27 – May 31: Fossil Fuels and Climate Change

- **View** the documentary film *Heat* (120 minutes), available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/heat/view/
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 4-5 and 7.

- **Take the Quiz**
- **Participate** in your Group's Discussion Board.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) summarizes the group's answers and posts them **in the SUMMARIES Discussion Board** by Friday 11:59 P.M.

Week #4, June 3-7: New Frontiers for Old Energy

- **View** the documentary *Tar Sands: Canada for Sale*
  - Available on Netflix for online streaming.
- **Read** Daniel Yergin, *The Quest*, chapter 12 Unconventional.
- **Read** the Press Dossier assembled by the instructor on this topic. (Available electronically at the library reserve.)

- **Take the Quiz**
- **Participate** in your Group's Discussion.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) summarizes the group's answers and posts them **in the SUMMARIES Discussion Board** by Friday11:59 P.M.

Week #5, June 10-14: Petro-Dictators and Energy Poverty

- **View** the documentary film …. None are available for online streaming!
- **Read** Friedman, chapters 6 and 9

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate** in your Group Discussion Board.

- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.

Week #6, June 17-21: Fear of the New versus "Competition for Mastery"

- **View** the documentary films *Saved by the Sun* and *Car of the Future* (110 minutes total running time), available at:
    - *Car of the Future,* (53 minutes), available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/car/program.html
    - *Saved by the Sun*, (53 minutes): http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/saved-by-the-sun.html

- **Read**: Yergin, *The Prize*, Prologue and Chapter 1 (library reserve)
- **Read:** Podobnik, chapter 1 and 2.
- **Read:** The Press Dossier assembled by the instructor on this topic. (Available electronically at the library reserve.)

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate** in your Group Discussion Board.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.

Week #7, June 24-28: Entrenched Interests versus Struggle for Hegemony I

- **View** the documentary film *The Big Energy Gamble* (53 minutes)**,** Available at: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/big-energy-gamble.html
- **Read** Podobnik, chapters 3-6.
- **Read:** The Press Dossier assembled by the instructor on this topic. (Available electronically at the library reserve.)

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate** in your Group Discussion Board.
- **The Group Secretary** (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.

Week #8, July 1-5: Entrenched Interests versus Struggle for Hegemony II

- **View** the documentary film *Climate of Doubt* (55 minutes). Available at:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/climate-of-doubt/

- **Read**: Judith Layzer, "Cold Front: How the Recession Stalled Obama's Clean Energy Agenda" (available in the library reserve).
- **Read:** Friedman, chapters 11-12 and 17.
- **Read:** Podobnik, chapter 7.

- **Take the Quiz.**
- **Participate in your Group Discussion Board.**
- **The Group Secretary (a rotating position) posts summary of group Discussion on Class Wide Discussion Board.**

Week #9, July 8-12: FINAL EXAM on July 11-12

- **The Final Exam window will open on Thursday July 11 at 9:00 A.M. and close at 11:59 P.M. on Friday July 12. Do not miss it!**

Grading Scale

Number- Letter Conversion Scale for the Final Course Grade	
94-100 %	A
90-93 %	A-
87-89 %	B+
84-86 %	B
80-83 %	B-
77-79 %	C+
74-76 %	C
70-73 %	C-
67-69 %	D+
64-66 %	D
60-63 %	D-
0 – 59 %	F

Grade Dissemination

Grades will be posted on Canvas.

Course Policies

Late Work Policy:
There are no make-ups for missing weekly quizzes or class graded group discussion.

Grades of Incomplete

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Use my email to communicate with me: danielmarien@yahoo.com. Allow up to 48 hours for a response. Repeat message if you haven't received a response within 48 hours.

Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with

Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Academic Conduct Policy:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a failing grade for the entire course and can also result in expulsion from the University.

Turinitin.com:

In this course, the instructor reserves the right to utilize turnitin.com to verify that students did not plagiarize their answers to the discussion questions or their summaries of their respective group discussion.